

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: UK DEFENSE REVIEW; DPC MEETING FEBRUARY 10

REF: A. USNATO 0668

B. USNATO 0680

C. STATE 029525

SUMMARY: AT FEBRUARY 10 DPC, PERMREPS AMENDED AND APPROVED PO/75/10: DRAFT COMMUNICATION FROM SYG TO UK ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW. NORTHERN REGION ALLIES (DENMARK, NORWAY, FRG) SUCCEEDED IN EXPANDING DRAFT PARAGRAPH DEALING WITH REDUCTIONS OF UK REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY TO NORTHERN FLANK. DPC ACCEPTED UK INITIATIVE TO TONE DOWN LANGUAGE DEALING WITH MAJOR ALLY HONORING COMMITMENTS. SYG WILL NOW FORMALLY FORWARD DPC VIEW TO UK GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT FEBRUARY 10 DPC (REF A), SYG LUNS ASKED FOR GENERAL COMMENTS ON IS-PRODUCED DRAFT LETTER FROM SYG TO UK AUTH-CONFIDENTIAL

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ORITIES ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW (REF B). PECK (UK) STATED THAT IS DRAFT WAS GENERALLY VERY GOOD; ONLY MAJOR CORRECTION HE DESIRED WAS DELETION OF PARAGRAPH 9 LAST THREE SENTENCES. NO OTHER PERMREPS OFFERED GENERAL COMMENTS, WHEREUPON DPC

TOOK UP DRAFT PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH. MOST CORRECTIONS WERE MINOR OR EDITORIAL IN NATURE. HIGHLIGHTS OF MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION FOLLOW.

2. PARAGRAPH 2: BOSS (FRG) CHALLENGED THIRD SENTENCE ON GROUNDS THAT YARDSTICK IT IMPLIES FOR CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENSE IS PERCENT OF GNP, BUT THAT DRAFT DID NOT EXPLICITLY STATE THIS. PECK RESPONDED THAT PERCENT OF GNP IS APPROVED NATO YARDSTICK. DPC AGREED TO AMEND DRAFT TO STATE EXPLICITLY THAT UK RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION, MEASURED AS PERCENT OF GNP, WILL STILL BE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF ITS MAJOR ALLIES AFTER REDUCTIONS TAKE PLACE.

3. PARAGRAPH 5: DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) ASKED THAT LETTER STATE THAT DPC ENDORSES RECOMMENDATIONS AS WELL AS ASSISMENT OF MILITARY COMMITTEE. DPC ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTION.

4. PARAGRAPH 6: ERALP (TURKEY) VOICED MISGIVINGS ON LINE FIVE PHRASE "POLITICAL INSTABILITY" IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AMONG SYG, ERALP AND CATALANO (ITALY), DPC ACCEPTED BRUCE (US) SUGGESTION TO DROP WORD "POLITICAL".

5. PARAGRAPH 6: BUSCH (NORWAY) SUPPORTED BY CATALANO (ITALY) AND HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED AMENDING PENULTIMATE SENTENCE TO REMOVE IMPLICATION THAT UK DEFENSE REVIEW WILL WEAKEN ALLIED GOVERNMENTAL RESOLVE. DPC CHANGED PARAGRAPH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT REFERENCE IS TO ALLIED PUBLIC OPINION, RATHER THAN ALLIED GOVERNMENTS.

6. PARAGRAPH 7: BOSS (FRG) SUPPORTED BY SVART (DENMARK) AND BUSCH (NORWAY) OBJECTED TO PASSING TREATMENT OF NORTHERN REGION REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY, ON GROUNDS OF LACK OF BALANCE WITH MORE EXTENSIVE TREATMENT IN PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH ON SOUTHERN REGION. BOSS INTRODUCED DRAFT TEXT TO RESTORE BALANCE BY MAKING NORTHERN FLANK NEED FOR REINFORCEMENT CLEAR, AND CITING WP INCREASES IN MARITIME CAPABILITY IN EASTERN ATLANTIC AND BALTIC. SYG AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON POINTED OUT MILITARY ASSESSMENT COVERED THESE FACTORS. CATALANO AND ERALP STATED THAT PARAGRAPH'S OPINING PHRASE: "SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS APPLY IN THE NORTHERN REGION" SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF BALANCE. AFTER DISCUSSION, DPC CHANGED DRAFT TO REFLECT GRAVITY OF ALLIED CONCERN FOR NORTHERN REGION, NECESSITY FOR EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENT, AND MARITIME CONSIDERATIONS.

7. PARAGRAPH 9: PECK (UK) OBJECTED TO LAST THREE SENTENCES ON GROUNDS THAT UK IS IN FACT MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF ITS FORCES, THAT UK HAS PROPOSED NO REDUCTIONS IN MBFR AREA IN ADVANCE OF MBFR AND THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF UK FAILING TO HONOR OTTAWA OR

MBFR COMMITMENTS. DPC READILY AGREED TO DELETE FIRST TWO OF THESE SENTENCES, AND AT DE STAERCKE'S SUGGESTION, CHANGED LAST SENTENCE TO : "BESIDES, IF A MAJOR PARTNER IN THE ALLIANCE FEELS COMPELLED TO REDUCE ITS COMMITMENT, THE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCE MIGHT BE THAT OTHERS MIGHT FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO RESIST PRESSURES TO DO LIKEWISE."

8. SYG LUNS CONGRATUALTED DPC ON PRODUCING A GOOD DRAFT, AND ADVISED THAT HE WILL FORWARD FINISHED TEXT TO UK MOD MASON. MISSION WILL TRANSMIT TEXT WHEN RECEIVED. BRUCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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